



**STATE OF WASHINGTON**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES**  
**MEDICAL ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION**  
***PO Box 45534 • Olympia WA 98504-5534***

August 2, 2002

**TO:** Outreach Contractors, Other Interested Parties

**FROM:** David Hanig, Section Manager  
Eligibility Policy and Client Education  
Division of Client Support

**SUBJECT: ASSISTING CLIENTS TRANSITIONING FROM MAA TO BASIC HEALTH**

We want to address several areas to guide you as you help clients to move to Basic Health (BH).

1. **Available Medical Assistance Administration (MAA) Programs:** Some people have told us they had heard about a “special program” or an “exemption” from the transfer process. Unfortunately, there is no “special program” or exemption to the termination of MAA’s state funded services. A few children may enroll into Alien Emergency Medical (AEM) program because of the nursing hours that these children are receiving in lieu of institutionalization. Those few children have already been identified.  
  
MAA has, however, identified categories of special populations, including Title V Children With Special Health Care Needs, Foster Care, DD clients, and children in the Medically Intensive Home Care Program (MIHCP). We have been working closely with caseworkers serving these special populations to facilitate their transition.
2. **Accessing Care Prior to Transition:** Clients currently eligible for MAA services can complete all medically necessary care prior to the termination of services in September 2002. Caseworkers can assist clients by identifying needed services and working with the client and the provider to obtain care.
3. **Completing the BH application:** Please encourage clients to complete the BH application. The slots that are available to this population are time limited. After October 2002, transition clients wanting to enroll in BH may be placed on a waiting list and have to wait months to enroll. Clients who transition now to BH will have a medical home and a primary care provider. In BH, access to a provider is assured by the managed care plan.

4. **Alien Emergency Medical (AEM):** BH clients who have an emergency may be able to qualify for **both** BH and AEM programs. AEM will cover services and costs not covered under BH, including durable medical equipment, physical therapy, and co-payments.
5. **Applying for AEM:** The MAA web site has information on AEM program specifications. The program is available on a time-limited basis depending on the acute and sudden onset of symptoms that can be defined as acute. Many of the affected population are *chronically* ill and therefore do not meet the federal requirement for AEM.

We recommend the following:

- Assist the client to enroll into BH;
  - Should an emergent situation arise that meets the AEM criteria, the client should apply for AEM as *supplemental* coverage for care not covered under the BH plan;
  - In order to apply for AEM, the client should complete an Application for Benefits and submit it to the CSO with the appropriate medical documentation confirming the acute and emergent condition. MAA would consider the AEM-BH interface as it does any other third party coverage.
6. **Working with Outreach Contractors:** Outreach contractors can assist clients in the transition process. We have posted on our website a resource list of agencies available to assist in the transfer process - <http://maa.dshs.wa.gov/bhptransition/>

If you have any questions, please check our website. If the website does not answer your question, you can also submit your questions.